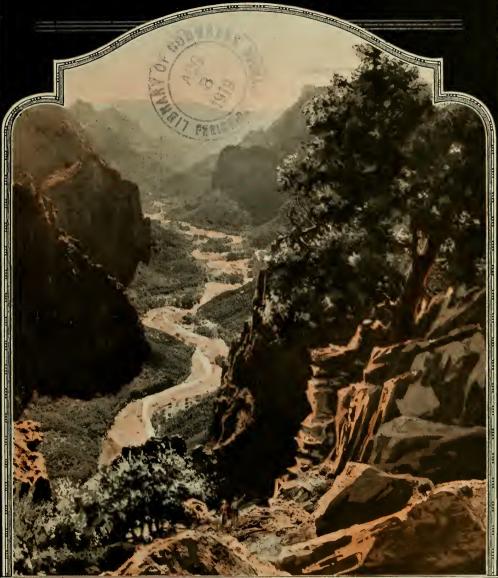
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# ZION National Monument





UNITED STATES RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION





Wylie Way Camp Nestles Beneath the Eastern Wall—here in an enchanting nook, beside one of Zion's living streams.

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# An Appreciation of Zion National Monument

By JACK LAIT

Written Especially for the United States Railroad Administration



ION CANYON is an epic, written by Mother Nature in her most ecstatic humor, illustrated by Creation in its most majestic manifestations, published by God Almighty as an inspiration to all mankind.

Far from the foot-worn ways of conventional journeying, its remote and intimate preserves unfold to the traveler whose eye seeks the extraordinary a masterpiece in magnitudes, incredible colorings, vastnesses of those mystic influences which mark the earth's contour, and a haven of distant peace beyond the understanding of him who has never entered the mouth of Zion Canyon, where the hubbub of the affairs of men has not yet penetrated, where nature is so big that one may not think small thoughts, where one is embraced in the spirits of mystery and history and those fascinating elements untouched by the rude fingers of destroying humans.

I spent ten delicious days and nights between the unscaled walls of Zion; I explored it over fords and fallen giant trees down to where, between great, sheer altitudes of rock, no man has ever gone farther—the stream becomes too deep to wade, too rocky to canoe, too narrow to swim. On every side was crude but marvelous nature in bird and foliage and fish and rock and running water. I stood there and I gasped, though I had become almost familiar with the miracles of Zion. I gasped: I gasped a prayer, for one may not behold what one beholds there without knowing that there is a God; that His ways are inexplicable to man and to be taken in faith alone.

Zion Canyon is the most beautiful spot on this continent. I think I have seen all the famed show-places that the evolution of the earth's formation has made. And of them all Zion to me stands first, stands alone. In this opinion I may stand alone. But I saw Zion at its best, and it captured me. Rich with a phase of American history seldom touched upon in popular literature, pregnant like the page of knowledge with the spoils of time, it gives to one who stands within its magnificent dimensions a sounder affection and admiration for the courage of men and a more profound impression of the wonder-works of God.

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### To the American People:

Uncle Sam asks you to be his guest. He has prepared for you the choice places of this continent-places of grandeur, beauty and of wonder. He has built roads through the deep-cut canyons and beside happy streams, which will carry you into these places in comfort, and has provided lodgings and food in the most distant and inaccessible places that you might enjoy yourself and realize as little as possible the rigors of the pioneer traveler's life. These are for you. They are the playgrounds of the people. To see them is to make more hearty Men Ware your affection and admiration for America.

## Zion National Monument



OWN at the very southern edge of Utah lies Zion National Monument, the newest among the many scenic marvels of our Western

Not new in point of time since its making, but new in presentation as an attraction for the traveler and lover of the marvelous in nature. Guarded for centuries by unconquered barriers of burning desert and rugged mountain crests, this treasure house of splendors was an unknown land.

#### A Land of Prehistoric Legend

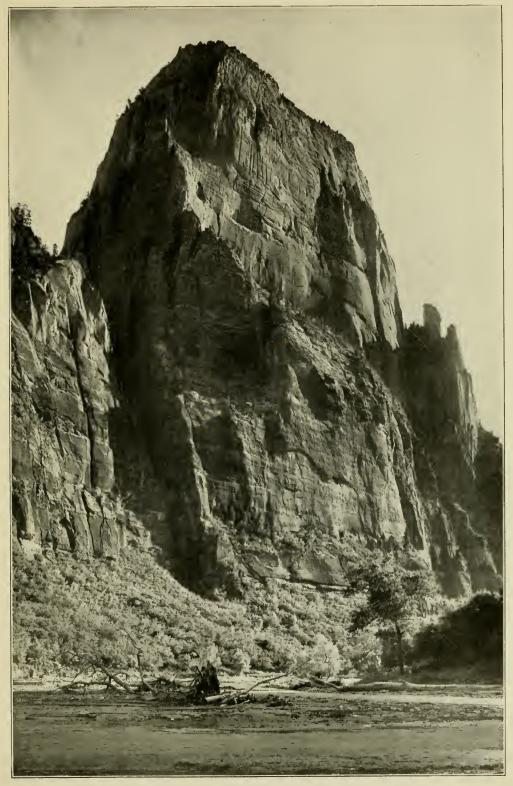
Legend tells us that, in unrecorded ages, a prehistoric people gathered within its rock bound amphitheatres to offer annual ceremonials in adoration of gods now long forgotten. With the passing of these ancient worshippers the area that forms Zion Monument relapsed into the silence of its beginning, a silence broken only by the howl of the mountain lion, the bark of the covote or the challenge of the stag as he hurled defiance to his rival from some jutting point upon a canyon's rim. Even among the later arriving tribes of American Indians. Zion was held in reverence, none of these superstitious people ever daring to spend the night within the portals of its many winding canyons.

#### Discovered by Mormon Pioneers

First of all among the Anglo-Saxons, came the Mormon pioneers to view this scenic spectacle enacted by the spirits of the gods, staged in a gigantic setting of towering battlements and thrones glistening sandstone. Amazed at the wonders of this nook in the heart of Utah's Rockies, these religious zealots stood in awe before the lofty pinnacles and crags of Zion colored by streams of brilliant crimson dashed against the faces of its mighty cliffs. First among moderns to enter the gates of this wonderland, these searchers into the unknown saw revealed the handiwork of the Architect of the Universe written on walls that tower heavenward amidst a riot of color, bold and glorious.

#### **Built by Grind of Centuries**

Long had Zion's pageant been in the making. It required the mantle of winter's snows, kisses of summer brightness and the grip of untold autumn frosts; building, tinting, smoothing, breaking, to bring about a perfec-



El Gobernador—Great White Mountain of Zion, which, flanked on either side by towering peaks, stands out as one of the most striking gems in this array of scenic grandeur.

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Great Temple of Sinawava—a gigantic amphitheater shut in by towering walls of rock which rise two thousand feet above its floor.

tion in this maze of splendor destined to charm countless mortals with its weird sublimity.

#### Opening of the Way

For years following the coming of the Mormons, this gem among America's wonders was but rarely visited. Now, placed among our nation's cherished and protected playgrounds, Zion has finally come into its own. way is open to you. Modern service furnished by roads of steel, allied with the distance-defying motor car and the building of good highways, has rendered all this possible. Zion's story cannot be told-it must be seen. Its portals thrown open that you may enter, bid you come. Towering thrones, sculptured by the winds and rains, gleam in coral and in gold and bid you a welcome to the shrine.

#### A National Monument

Zion National Monument was created and added to America's list of playgrounds on March 18, 1918.

An area of 76,800 acres was included in the territory set aside to form this Monument and within its boundaries are located formations of such

unique colorings as to vie in attractiveness with those of any other among our several National Parks.

Zion Canyon is located in the southern part of Utah, its rugged and broken acres forming the clefts and crannies among the southern spurs of the Wasatch range of mountains.

#### Zion's Wondrous Diversity

First among Zion's wonders is its absolute diversity. With every turn the visitor is confronted by a picture differing totally from those he has already viewed. Next come the wondrous colorings that have rightfully caused the naming of this gigantic gorge, "Yosemite done in oils."

Within the Monument there are several canyons, each one different in character and color, at the same time presenting features seen in no other section of America.

There are cliff dwellings, telling the story of a home life among vanished races.

There are spots where legend locates places of worship dedicated to the rites of heathen deities.

There are thousands of unblazed trails reaching out into the towering cliffs where the daring mountaineer may find hazard and the geologist new formations to puzzle.

There are unsolved problems of earth's writhing and upheaval when time was young.

Everywhere are vistas that defy the talent of the artist to rightfully portray, for the whole Monument is one great riot of brilliant color and the fantastic picturing of nature.

#### An Artist's Paradise

Such artists as Moran, Knight, Dellenbaugh, Culmer and Fairbanks have penetrated its gorges and brought forth studies from which paintings have been developed that have astonished the critics. Yet when others followed these artists into this practically unknown canyon they returned with reports that the weird and brilliant coloring of these paintings told but half the story of Zion's grandeur.

Other explorers, among them Mr. William H. Holmes, at that time head curator of the National Museum, and

Major Powell, visited, described and made drawings of Zion's wonders, but so far was the canyon removed from the regular paths of travel, that it remained a "terra incognita" until, by means of the railroad and auto highways, its attractions were placed within reach of the traveler. Motor cars now roll into the very heart of Zion's beauties and deposit their passengers at the doors of a "Wylie" camp, the prototype of those comfortable resorts which so long welcomed visitors in the Yellowstone.

#### A Highway of Romance

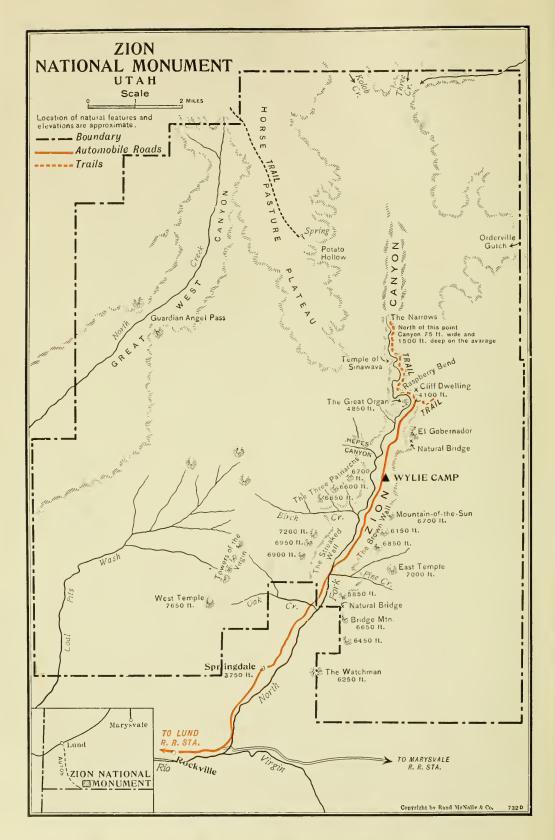
The opening of Zion has been accomplished through the efficiency of Utah's good roads.

In combination with road construction carried on by the National government, these state roads have penetrated a section of country that will rapidly take its place with the Yosemite, the Yellowstone and Glacier Park as one of America's scenic marvels.

The story of this highway is romantic in itself, for, away back in the days when our West was in swaddling



Looking down into Zion from its eastern wall—from this point of vantage one of the most glorious vistas of the Canyon meets the eye.



clothes, Brigham Young first conceived the good road plans that were carried out so many decades later. President Young was among the earlier visitors to Zion's wonders and to him fell the christening of the great central cleft, around which are clustered the other gems of the Monument. This canyon so impressed him that he gave it the name of "Zion."

First of all to be discovered in this great area of attractions was this Zion Canyon, which has, for years, caused wonder and amazement on the part of the few people who have braved the hazard of rough travel and meager accommodations in order to view the splendor of this practically unknown land.

#### Where the Motor Conquers Distance

By the automobile route now established, Zion is just an even hundred miles from the railroad station of Lund, Utah.

The auto drive is made in less than seven hours, with a stop for luncheon at Cedar City, a most attractive little community nestled under the shadows of the southern spur of the Wasatch Mountains, which really marks the northern boundary of the area of which Zion is the leading feature.

All along the way the traveler faces the range which gradually rises in his path, its color slowly changing from the deep purple of distant effects to the solid greys of the country rock splashed with vivid tintings of red and yellow sandstone, the whole softened by the varied green of scattered cedars and widespread areas of chaparral and mesquite.

It is a most pleasant introduction to a land of mountain wonders where every mile shows a vista differing entirely from the last.

From Cedar City the route follows the historic state highway.

#### Rim of an Historic Sea

About twenty miles to the south the road tips over the rim of the great

intermountain basin, over which the waters of prehistoric Lake Bonneville spread.

The road is flanked with towering mountains that shut in fertile valleys, green with growing crops.

Here the rim of the basin is known as the "Black Ridge" and the rock formation gives truth to this title where the road winds down through the rocky gorge leading into Utah's "Dixie."

Seventy-five miles from the railroad brings the traveler to the valley of the Rio Virgin, which here breaks out of a grim canyon where it has cut its way through the walls of what science terms the most marvelous "fault" in all the world's geological record.

There certainly was some tremendous break, for when the earth's surface was riven by a gigantic disturbance, that portion west of what is known as the Hurricane Fault, dropped a full two thousand feet, leaving the eastern area a great suspended mesa with an edge ragged as a ripsaw, and overlooking a stretch of country extending far over into Nevada and Arizona.

#### A Glimpse at Utah's "Dixie"

In Rio Virgin Valley grow the famous "Dixie" peaches, the fig, the pomgranate, almond and the walnut; in fact, everything that characterizes semitropic America save the citrus fruits.

Blessed with the richest of soil accompanied by an abundance of water for irrigation, and just lately brought into close touch with markets by means of good roads and the perfection of auto trucks, this semi-tropic Utah is coming back into the prosperity that marked its earlier years when its cotton fields supplied the intermountain communities and its vineyards furnished grapes and wines.

With a sharp turn to the east the highway climbs over the rim of the great fault, following the south bank



Towers of the Virgin-distant view of one of Zion's scenic gems.

of the waterway, where the state road leads through the little towns of Virgin City and Rockville. Here we reach the confluence of two creeks that form the head waters of the Rio Virgin.

One of these creeks, called the Parunuweap, flows from the east, while its sister stream, known as the Mukuntuweap, comes straight down from the north, like a crystal chain, and links rocky temples with green bottom lands and frowning narrows.

#### The Western Temple-

Long before we reach the northward turning point, the great divide which marks the western boundary of Zion Canyon has loomed before us, and we are attracted by a massive pile that throws its summit four thousand feet above the valley's floor. As the lowering sun strikes this great mountain, its western side is illumined in a hundred tints and colors ranging from greyish white to the deep red of the great sand-stone crown that caps its summit.

From its pictures we recognize the peak which the Mormon leader titled the "West Temple of the Virgin."

A turn northward shows that this superbly colored mount marks the eastern side of Zion's portal and any question concerning the reason for its christening is dispelled by the grandeur of its wondrous formation and the marvel of its colorings. It is truly a natural temple.

Nowhere in all the world can there be found a more striking facade than forms the east front of this weird mountain and, in conjunction with the array of peaks and dome-like summits, that flank it on the north.

#### At Zion's Portal

Across the canyon and forming its eastern portal, rises another mountain of like formation carrying a duplicate of the great sandstone cap. This is known as the "East Temple," and, though second to its western sister in magnificence, it stands as a fitting introduction to Zion's glories.

One of Zion's strange formations is in the shape of a natural bridge, that stands, like a great bow with either end anchored to a rocky base, overlooking the chasm created by an erosion that left this ribbon of rock hanging high in air.

A backward glance against the western sky shows a formation that outlines a human face cut cameo-like upon the canyon's wall.

Legendary lore has construed this face to be that of a famous chief who, after passing on, was transformed into the guardian of the canyon's portal.

#### Into Zion's Depths

On into Zion's depths the highway leads, passing on the right the Three Brothers, and entering the Court of the Patriarchs, where another trio of gigantic pyramids tower in vari-colored grandeur.

Winding beside the foaming stream the road climbs over a slight divide and passes out onto a broad meadow, from the eastern border of which rises a dome, rightly christened the Mountain of the Sun, since its great white summit is first illumined by the morning rays and through a break in the western wall receives the final touch of departing light.

At the base of this glittering sun mountain, is located the canyon camp where are clustered inviting tent houses, grouped about a social center with amusement and dining halls.

#### Among the Trails of Zion

With another day comes a journeying by horseback or on foot, to a hundred places of vantage.

There is a trip to where the lumber is brought from the canyon's rim on a cable that carries its load down nearly three thousand feet.

On the way is passed a huge peak, cut to a flat table on its summit and towering over three thousand feet above the canyon floor. Its chalk-like strata, in sharp contrast to the reds and browns that surround it, brings this splendid mountain out in clear relief. Its name is El Gobernador.

Across the canyon and in an elbow of the creek, rises a mountain, closely resembling El Gobernador in everything but color; this western pile, titled The Angel's Landing, is in deep reds and deeper browns.

Farther to the north are fields for most interesting exploration covering the Zion narrows, where the canyon shrinks so that the little creek covers its floor from wall to wall.



On Zion's Western Rim—showing the depth of one of the Monument's peculiar canyons, where the brilliant colorings of the lower altitudes have given way to rocks of chalky white.



The Eastern Temple—one of the two mountains which, on either side, flank the southern portal, and become at sunset one of Zion's most impressive features.

#### Mystic Temple of Sinawava

Up at the narrows' portal lies a great circular amphitheatre, with walls over two thousand feet in height.

Though moderns have attempted to give to this rock bound circle a twentieth century name, it will stand forever as the Temple of Sinawava, or the place of worship for the greatest of Indian gods, whom legend declared was here venerated in days before history first told a story of our continent.

Trails lead from the floor to the rim of the canyon and the ardent explorer may find thousands of unblazed pathways upon which to invest his energy. In fact, Zion is the heart of a great country filled with curious formations.

One of the interesting side journeys is a climb to the canyon's eastern rim, made either on foot or by mule back.

It is only by taking a climb upward to where the ragged sky line joins the blue, that the massive grandeur of this canyon can be realized. The trail is not particularly hard and the reward is well worth the effort.

At the end of the trail, a point is reached where the canyon may be viewed in two distinct directions, for under the point, the great gorge swings almost at right angles with its southern stretch.

#### Glories of Zion's Sunrise

The best results of this journey to the eastern rim are secured by making the climb in the afternoon and remaining "on top" for the glories of the next sunrise.

With the first coming of the dawn, the Mountain of the Sun springs out in dazzling whiteness. In vivid contrast, the great vermilion cap on the Western Temple emerges from the gloom and stands silhouetted against the sky, while, far below, the canyon's depths are still sunk in deepest shadow.

The gradual transformation of the western wall from velvet darkness to great splashes of vivid colors is a change so weird, so impressive, that it lingers distinctly, when the other features of Zion are but a memory.

To the west of Zion Canyon lies another great break among these old piles of picture-rocks. This western canyon has never been officially named and its visitors have been few.

Differing entirely from Zion Canyon in coloring and formation, the western gorge can be viewed only from the highest vantage points.

#### To Zion's Western Rim

There are several passes through which trails will be eventually cut so that the western canyon may be reached directly from Zion's floor, but at present, a journey back to the westward and up the great plateau that separates Zion from the western canyon is necessary. if the traveler would know its beauties. This is a trip of three or four days.

It will take years to develop trails to all the unique corners of the Zion region. Not that they are inaccessible, but because they are a comparatively

recent discovery.

Not half a score of people have ever passed through the length of Zion, and there are branches of the several canyons through whose network the foot of man has never trod.

#### Zion's Prehistoric Dwelling

A short and most interesting side trip, requiring but one day from the Wylie Camp, is to the cliff dwellings, located in the Parunuweap Canyon, seven miles above the confluence of the two creeks. High on the north wall of the canyon some of these well defined dwellings are located, with their walls standing. The rocky archway forming the roof of the community

dwelling, has strange sign paintings in a long lost language, still undecipherable.

In different locations within the monument's limits are several other specimens of these prehistoric dwellings, and as the traveler to Zion develops in curiosity these relics of an unrecorded people will be thoroughly examined and their long hidden secrets given to the world.

#### Season

It is probable that Zion National Monument will ultimately become an all-year attraction for the tourist, but for the present the season is May 15, to November 1. At this season the weather is at its best with bright delightfully clear sunshiny days and nights cool enough to make blankets necessary.

#### Transportation and Accommodations

Zion National Monument may be reached via the railroad stations of Lund, Utah, or Marysvale, Utah. From Lund, Utah the National Park Transportation Company operates auto stages daily during the season to Wylie Camp in Zion Canyon, leaving Lund about 10:00 A. M. and arriving at the Camp at 5:00 P. M. Returning auto stages leave Wylie Camp at 9:00 A. M. and arrive Lund 6:00 P. M. Stops are made at Cedar City, in each direction, for lunch.



A nook in Zion's western wall, flanked on its northern side by three mountains of unique formation. To these mountains the Mormon pioneers gave the Biblical title of The Three Patriarchs.



Section of Zion's Brilliantly Colored Western Wall-splashes of vivid redcharacterize these formations

Wylie Camp consists of central social and dining halls, and substantially constructed sleeping tents of wood and canvas, each accommodating from two to four persons, The tents are sanitary; have sound board floors, frames, windows and doors; contain regular beds and are heated as may be necessary. Hot and cold water is provided.

The cost of ticket including auto stage transportation Lund to Wylie Camp and return, lunch enroute in each direction, two nights' lodging and five meals at Wylie Camp, is \$26.50. For additional time at Wylie Camp the rate is \$1.00 for each meal and \$1.00 for lodging; weekly rate \$24.00, American plan.

Special automobile trips from the Camp to points within the Canyon, may be made at rate of 75c per hour for each passenger, with minimum charge of \$3.00 per hour.

Saddle horses are furnished at the rate of \$3.00 per day and mounted guides at \$4.00 per day.

Splendid trout and bass fishing is within short distance from the camp.

Camp wagons and equipment for extended side trips may be secured at Wylie Camp.

The National Park Transportation Company and Wylie Camp are operated by W. W. Wylie—address: Springdale, Utah.

#### Administration

Zion National Monument is under the jurisdiction of the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. The Custodian of the Monument is located at Springdale, Utah.

#### U. S. Government Publications

The following publication may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at price given. Remittances should be by money order or in cash.

National Parks Portfolio, by Robert Sterling Yard, 260 pages, 270 illustrations, descriptive of nine National Parks. Pamphlet edition, 35 cents; book edition, 55 cents.

The following publications may be obtained free on written application to the Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

Glimpses of our National Parks. 48 pages, illustrated.

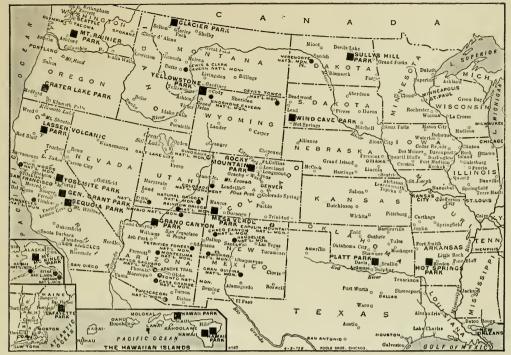
Map showing location of National Parks and National
Monuments, and railroad routes thereto.

#### U. S. R. R. Administration Publications

The following publications may be obtained free on application to any consolidated ticket office; or app'y to the Bureau of Service, National Parks and Monuments, or Travel Bureau—Western Lines, 646 Transportation Building, Chicago, Ill.

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The National Parks at a Glance

#### United States Railroad Administration

#### Director General of Railroads

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